



Rep. Craig Fry

and his proposal for

Tax relief for seniors

Answers to Property Tax Questions:

Who does the assessments?

Local Government!

Who sends out the bill?

Local Government!

Who collects the tax money?

Local Government!

Who raised the taxes?

Local Government!

Who spends the property tax money?

Local Government!

Who does NOT spend local property tax dollars?

State Government!

Who already allocates over 30% of their budget - more than \$3.7 billion - for property tax relief?

State Government!

As one of the legislators who voted against the flawed "tax restructuring" plan two years ago that increased taxes on individuals to give tax breaks to the business community, I promised to look for ways to **help Indiana's senior citizens cope with rising property taxes.**

Seniors across Indiana could see property tax relief, thanks to an amendment I included in House Bill 1006. That legislation is now under consideration in the Indiana Senate.

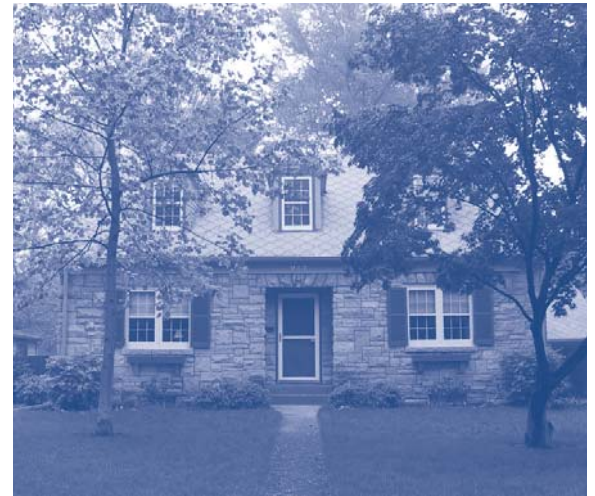
House Bill 1006, which passed by a vote of 95-2, would freeze property taxes for people over 65 years of age who are making no more than \$25,000 per year. My proposal provides an additional \$15 million in targeted tax relief to people on fixed incomes who need relief the most.

I believe this vote marks the first time that we actually have done something to **benefit people who have been hammered by the so-called tax restructuring** that was enacted by the legislature in 2002. In fact, for the first time in St. Joseph County, homeowners now pay a larger share of the property tax burden than business owners. In Elkhart County, homeowners now pay 44% of the property tax burden, up from 37% just a year ago. Rather than simply defining tax reform in terms of how it helps Hoosier businesses, we have taken a significant step to assist those people who truly can benefit from property tax relief.

This amendment is part of a measure that increases traditional property tax deductions available to a wide range of people, including the elderly, those who are blind and have other disabilities, veterans and their spouses, and families rehabilitating their homes. The amendment creates an additional homestead credit for seniors making less than \$25,000 per year. **In effect, the people who meet this criteria will never see their property taxes increase again.** That is the definition of true property tax relief.

The property tax freeze will be paid for by rolling back some of the business tax breaks enacted by the Legislature in 2002. My proposal is opposed by lawmakers who only want to reduce taxes for those companies that continuously want state and local tax breaks up until the moment they decide to relocate in other communities or countries.

I urge you to **contact your state senator at 1-800-382-9467** to encourage passage of this important legislation to help senior citizens.



Contact Rep. Craig Fry

RESIDENCE

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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

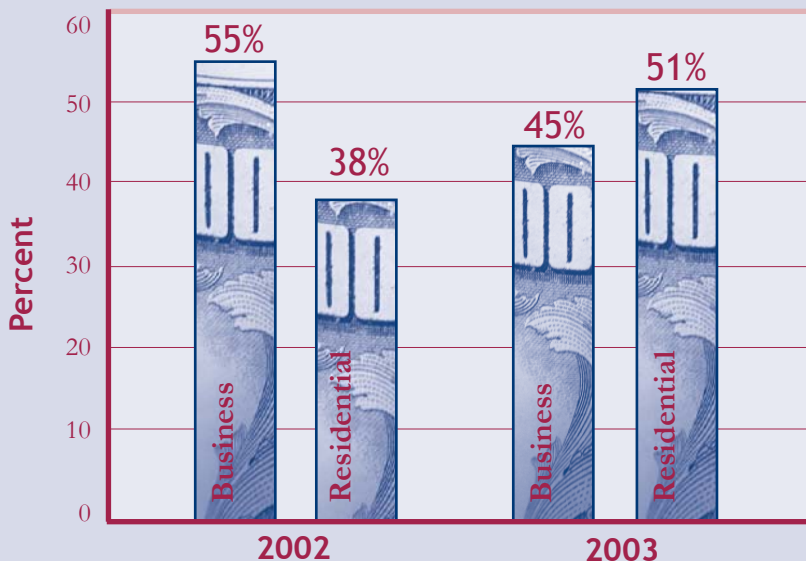
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St. Joseph County Tax Burden Shift

In St. Joseph County the tax burden has shifted from business property to residential property. This chart shows how much of the county's total tax burden was carried by business and homeowners before and after reassessment. The percentages do not add up to 100 because other sources, such as agricultural, are not shown.



Rep. Fry to continue fight for property tax relief

Over the past few weeks, I have tried to keep you updated with newsletters and other mailings concerning our current property tax situation. I want you to realize that homeowners now are paying much more than their fair share of the property tax burden.

I appreciate all of your calls, letters and comments. Believe me, I know that no one feels more of this increased burden than senior citizens. It is unimaginable to me that the legislature and local government continue to offer huge tax breaks and packages to greedy businesses while expecting

groups like our senior citizens to pick up the tab.

I will continue to fight for real property tax relief for all homeowners, including senior citizens. No one - but especially not a senior on a fixed income - should be forced from his or her house because of out-of-control property tax increases while corporations get richer and richer.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you in relation to state government. You may call my office toll-free at 1-800-382-9842 or write at any of the addresses listed at the top left of this page.

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